



A systematic review determining the amount, focus and nature of homoeopathy research activity in Australia

BACKGROUND:

In the 'Australian Research Priorities in Homeopathy 2018-2024' report it was identified that there had never been a literature review of the Australian publications of homoeopathy research. Undertaking this work is important because by understanding the building blocks of previous research we are better able to lay out strong foundations for future scientific research in homoeopathy to occur. To address this, we are conducting a comprehensive systematic scoping review to determine the amount, focus and nature of peer-reviewed research articles on homoeopathy in Australia.

METHODS:

Online databases, including OVID Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, PsycArticles, CINAHL, Web of Science, Pubmed and Cochrane library, were searched between 1990 until present. The following terms were applied in the title, abstract or keywords: 1) homeop* OR homoeop* OR homœop* AND 2) Austral* OR Australian Capital Territory OR New South Wales OR Northern Territory OR Queensland OR South Australia OR Tasmania OR Victoria OR Western Australia.

Additionally, eligible articles from Similia were screened between 2005 until present. Publications were included if they described research studies conducted in Australia or papers about homoeopathy written in Australia in the following categories: case studies, discussion, history, homoeoprophylaxis, in-vitro/lab, materia medica, philosophy, provings and studies with participants. Papers were excluded if they were not about homoeopathy, not peer-reviewed, not written or conducted in Australia, or if they were editorials, book reviews or conference reviews. Screening, data extraction and quality assessment is currently being undertaken independently by two reviewers, with disagreements resolved through discussion with the third reviewer.

DISCUSSION:

This systematic literature review is currently ongoing and once finalised is expected to lead to deeper understanding of the focus and nature of research conducted about homoeopathy in Australia, therefore highlighting the future needs of our profession.

The study is registered on PROSPERO

(https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=207040)